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It scarcely ever happens to me that everything I am about runs smooth, or gives me satisfaction while I am about it.
—Matthew Arnold.

What a Legal Ballot Is.

We regret that Alderman William H. Zimmermann should have cause to complain that he was not fairly treated in the recent election for treasurer. Mr. Zimmermann claims to have indisputable evidence that the vote given to him by the official count in Jefferson Ward was less than the vote actually cast for him. He produces at least two well known citizens who are willing to make affidavit that they voted for him in one precinct of that ward, from which the returns gave him not a single vote. It is not denied that these citizens voted for him, but it is alleged that their ballots were improperly prepared. The election officers at the First Jefferson Ward Precinct says that he saw Mr. B. Hassel, one of the voters in question, prepare his ballot, but that it did not conform to the legal requirements, as he drew two cross lines through the names of all the candidates except that of Mr. Zimmermann, whereas the law requiring that in erasing or making the line must run at least two-thirds of the way across.

It is true that the law makes such a provision, but judges of election should exercise common sense discretion in determining whether or not a ballot is, within the spirit of the law, a legal ballot. If the voter marks his ballot in such a way as to leave it in doubt, which candidate or candidates he intended to vote for, of course, his ballot must be discarded. But if the marking is done in such a way as to indicate clearly his choice of candidates, and the judges, one and all, are satisfied on the point, the ballot should be counted, whether or not there be an exact compliance with the letter of the law.

In the case above cited, for example, an election officer admits that Mr. Hassel drew two cross lines through the names of all candidates except the name of Candidate Zimmermann. Therefore, there could be no doubt in the minds of the judges that this voter intended to vote for Zimmermann and his vote should have been so recorded. No hard and fast rules can be made. The law was designed to promote voting and not to deprive any lawful voter of his vote. It is, therefore, the duty of judges in executing the law to register every ballot which clearly and unmistakably indicates the voter's choice of candidates.

Mr. Tucker in Europe.

The cordial reception which is being accorded in Europe to Mr. H. St. George Tucker, president of the Jamestown Exposition, is peculiarly gratifying to all Virginians. Mr. Tucker has everywhere been received with the utmost kindness, and his mission has met with many important assurances of interest and cooperation. Apart from the personal aspect of this, it augurs well for the exposition's success. A Virginia project which can claim the attention of Europe may well expect a high degree of interest from the men and women of this country.

Upon his return to America, Mr. Tucker will bring with him friendly expressions and assurances from Kaiser Wilhelm and Emperor Franz Josef. Both Germany and Austria-Hungary, it is hoped, will be represented by a squadron at the opening ceremonies in 1907, and there is ground for expecting that the Austrian Yacht Club may be similarly represented. On Christmas Day, Mr. Tucker had a favorable audience with the Pope at the Vatican. France, in especial, has been very warm in friendly assurances. On Tuesday of this week, through the mediation of Ambassador McCormick, Mr. Tucker had a long and very pleasant interview with Premier Rouvier, who expressed the keenest interest in the exposition plans as Mr. Tucker unfolded them. On the following day, President Tucker was cordially received by President Loubet, who said that a French squadron would undoubtedly attend the opening of the exposition, and that France would do everything possible to promote French participation in it.

The presence of foreign squadrons at

Jamestown will undoubtedly be a striking and interesting feature. Even should a general gathering of the nations fail to materialize, the friendly disposition of the European governments is well worth having. Mr. Tucker's mission abroad is being discharged with distinguished success. It is worth while noting that in enlisting the interest of foreign capitals, the fact of President Roosevelt's sincere desire to see the exposition a success, has been a factor of decided importance. Mr. Tucker says that he has everywhere found the name of Roosevelt an unfailing open sesame.

A Menace to the South.

In a communication to The Times-Dispatch, Major James H. Dooley directs attention to the danger to the South, as he sees it, of committing to the Interstate Commerce Commission, or to any other administrative body, the power to fix railroad rates.

Major Dooley cites history to show that the North and West have ever used the powers of Federal government to enrich themselves at the expense of the South.

The South was kept down for a long period of time, but has now developed into a great trading and manufacturing section, and the North and West are alarmed.

The South has now become a dangerous competitor in making iron, in mining coal, in manufacturing cotton, and in other branches of industry.

This development is due largely, in some instances entirely, to the liberality of the railroads—or, if it must come out, to discriminating rates.

Capital is raised to start a new industry on some Southern road. The promoter says to the railroad manager: "I can sell my product at such and such a price, delivered at the railroad. If you can give me such and such a rate, I can sell in the North and Western markets in competition with manufacturers in those sections."

If it is a promising business, the railroads will haul the stuff as low as cost if necessary, in order to build up a new settlement and make traffic.

The result is that Southern industry has wondrously progressed, and the North and West are feeling the competition.

Now suppose the Interstate Commerce Commission is given power to fix the maximum and minimum rate upon complaint of persons or communities that may charge that there is a discrimination against them.

The commission is composed in the main of Northern and Western men. The North and West are allies against the South. In all cases of discrimination in favor of the South, what will the decision be?

Give this power to the Federal government and no Southern man will ever be elected to the presidency. The North and West will see to that. Our cities and ports will soon have passed the zenith of their greatness, and will decline. The factories, foundries and mines, and all our infant industries will be closed.

If Southern men in Congress will stand together they can defeat this measure.

Such is a brief outline of Major Dooley's article. It is a view which has doubtless not presented itself to the people of the South, possibly not to a Southern congressman. But it is a view that should be considered most seriously by all our representatives before they give their votes to a measure which will take from Southern railroads the power to develop Southern industry and trade by differential rates.

Bullying at the Military School.

In the course of the trial of Midshipman Stephen Decatur, Jr., charged with hazing at the Naval Academy, it was in evidence that the defendant hazed Gaylord Church, of Meadville, Pa., by causing him to perform "No. 16," a usual form of hazing. Church testified to this, and Decatur admitted that he had ordered Church to come to his (Decatur's) room, and that some one in his presence had ordered Church to perform as specified. He denied, however, that he gave the order. Decatur's explanation of his reason for ordering Church to the room was that he had smiled in the ranks and was to be reprimanded.

What business had Decatur to "order" Church to come to his room or to give him any orders whatsoever except as an officer? But the custom prevails in all military institutions. The "rats" are treated with the utmost contempt, they are made to wait on the "old cadets," and to do their bidding as though they were so many slaves; and they dare not refuse and dare not complain. They must take their punishment and humiliation in silence and bide their time. By and by the "rats" grow up to be "old cadets" and then they lord it over the "rats" who follow them, and so on ad infinitum.

It is an old custom, but it is outrageous, and it should be abolished.

The "rat" is first humiliated and cowed, then he "thirsts for revenge," and by and by when his turn comes he "gets even" with the fellows below him. Such training cannot but make bullies.

The Southern Planter.

The Southern Planter for January comes to us marked "Vol. 67, No. 1," which means that that esteemed contemporary is now in the sixty-seventh year of its continuous publication. The Planter under the editorial management of Mr. J. F. Jackson, has steadily improved, and the January number is perhaps the best issue of its honorable existence. It contains besides editorial matter and judicious selections, many selections, many articles by experts on every branch of agriculture, and is, par excellence, an educational edition full of practical instruction.

There are those who ridicule "book farming," but they might as well ridicule book manufacturing, book railroading, book trading, and what not. The successful farmer is the educated farmer, and the more he knows of science as applied to his branch of industry, the more he keeps informed of modern methods, the

more he conducts his operations according to the progressive ideas of the age, the more successful he will be.

The Southern Planter is an important factor in the educational work of the day and should be a regular visitor to the home of every farmer in the South.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch protests against "along these lines," declaring that the words are over-worked. It recently heard a speech in which the speaker used them—it is sure it does not exaggerate—at least twenty times. The fatigue of our contemporary is not without reason, and if it can procure a discontinuance of "along these lines," The Observer—which is itself not guileless, but which will never offend again—will make it a Christmas present as surely as another year rolls around. And by that time we will have some other work cut out for it—Charlotte Observer.

It is a fair promise, but safe. We do not expect to earn our friend's present, much as we should love it. The expression is convenient and the public will cling to it. We had no thought of working a reform.

The best laid plans and so on. The Richmond Times-Dispatch was guilty of a slight error some days ago in saying that President Roosevelt was born in 1882. Whereupon the watchful "faithful reader" spied out the slip and thoughtfully wrote to the editor. The editor tried, but in vain, to correct the blunder. His slippery or too facile pen, or else an unusually intelligent compositor made him write again the fatal error, making Mr. Roosevelt born in 1882. Doubtless Mr. Roosevelt would rather be young than President; but unless he were a little older than this date of birth would make him, he would not now be in the White House, by accident or otherwise—Columbia State.

The printer has the last say and we have to submit to his ruling. We will make one more endeavor, however, to say that Mr. Roosevelt was born in 1858.

All persons who have had business at the executive office during the administration of Governor Montague will join us, we are sure, in an expression of regret that Secretary Ritchie and his assistant, Mr. Bigger, will retire when Mr. Montague goes out of office. They have made a record of which they may well feel proud. They have been so uniformly courteous and accommodating that they have won popular favor, and in whatever direction their interests may lead them, the good will of the public will follow them.

Town Topics' criminal libel suit against Collier's has brought out the interesting statement the so-called Tom Watson's Magazine is in reality owned by the proprietor of Town Topics. It is safe to say that nothing of this kind had ever been suspected. Is it a fact? If so, it would appear that the Populist presidential candidate had fallen into afflictions not calculated to improve his political aspirations.

"Now, in the South coarse yarns are spun for the most part."—Houston Chronicle.

No, Julia. There is nothing that need shock a young girl here. The reference is evidently to the cotton industry, not the commercial tourist.

The presidents of the three big life insurance companies who laughed the first charges against them down the wind as the spite talk of a sorehead, have all stepped down and out. Even in this hour of financial stringency, Tom Lawson must have his happy moments.

The fact that there are 20,000 more men than women in Iowa should suggest to the Legislature of that State the desirability of establishing immediate reciprocity with the New England schoolmarm district.

While it may be true that heaven helps those who help themselves, it must be understood that this does not apply to those who help themselves to what doesn't belong to them.

If Governor Odell really writes that book "of exposure," he may succeed in making Mr. Lawson and Miss Ida Tarbell look like very small pickers indeed.

Even should Mr. Walter Wellman succeed in locating the North pole, has he yet mapped out any simple, yet effective, plan for bringing it home with him?

As to those campaign contributions from the insurance companies, there is still time for Mr. Cortelyou to step close up and whisper the details.

Some day the White House may have an occupant prepared to maintain that the thing to do with our ex-Presidents is not to have any.

The whole country will stand by Secretary Shaw should he decide to hold to his original plan of resigning on February 1st.

Lynching, after all, is a good deal like college life, with the hazing feature omitted.

In turning over a new leaf, it is always safest to paste down the old one.

Gratitude, too, is frequently only skin-deep.

The Pharmacy Bill.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: "Sir:—In your issue of January 4th, under the title 'Druggists Not to Offer Bills,' you state that 'the so-called Pharmacy Bill' and the proposed measure designed to regulate the sale of patent and proprietary medicines, etc., were rejected. I am sorry to hear that the bill was rejected, but I am glad to hear that the bill was not rejected, but simply laid upon the table until the next regular meeting of the association.

The bill was designed to regulate the sale of patent and proprietary medicines, was too sweeping in its provisions for the majority of those present; yet many of those opposed to the bill were of the opinion that the bill would be needed to control the sale of such preparations as contained poisons.

The pharmacy bill was not seriously opposed, but the bill was not needed to control the sale of such preparations as contained poisons.

The mere fact that two committees composed of some of the most prominent druggists in the city were appointed, indicate that the labor of the association along these lines was not neglected, but that legislation was contemplated as soon as a pharmacy bill and a bill to control certain patent and proprietary medicines, fair and just to all, could be drawn.

Sincerely,
Edmund W. M. M.

Rhymes for To-Day

It is.
The papers are crying,
That money's too tight,
That too little currency's
Lying in sight;
They live this as news, but
It ain't—am I right?
Don't you know by your feelings
That money's too tight?
I've long had the knowledge,
That money's too tight;
I feel it each morning,
I know it each night—
When I talk or I walk or
Read or I write,
This thought is o'er with me,
Viz: Money's too tight.

My purse whispers loudly,
The money's too tight—
Oh, why should reporters
Such stale truth indite?
But there—I'm not angry—
I'll take it polite.
By colling retorting:
"Ain't yours, too, quite tight?"
H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

After the Automobile.—Passer-by: "Is that your pork down there on the road, guv'nor?" Farmer: "Pork! What d'ye mean? There's a pig o' mine out there." Passer-by: "Ah, but there's a motor car just been by."—Punch.

A Trouble-Saver.—"I fear I shall not be able to attract much attention," said the new convert to the "good news," answered Senator Sorghum: "In this era of accusations and investigations it is sometimes a luxury not to be noticed."—Washington Star.

Why Not?—"Time is money, young man." "That so? Well, I have a bunch of time on hand I'd like you to break into small bills."—Philadelphia Ledger.

His Reason for Not Walking.—"I suppose your husband has not done much walking since he bought his new auto?" "No, indeed. He broke his leg the first time he went out in it."—Cleveland Leader.

Seems Reasonable.—"I see that a Michigan woman left all her estate to her lawyer." "I suppose that's what might be called forestalling the inevitable."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Badly Broken French.—The American Tourist: "I suppose I speak broken French, eh, Henri?" The Waiter: "Not exactly, M'sieur. You had a word describes it better—let me see—ah, yes—it is pulverized!"—Puck.

Costly Beds for Royalty.

A certain hotel in New York boasts of a bed worth \$250. It is by no means the most costly in existence, which distinction belongs to one in St. Petersburg presented by the Shah of Persia seventy years ago to the Czar. It is made of crystal cut from a solid block and is ornamented with silver. It is provided with steps of blue glass and a fountain which throws streams of scented water in the air. One of the native Indian rulers owns a musical bed, the weight of the body sets the works in motion and it plays for half an hour before the melody is exhausted. While life-sized figures of Grecian maidens at the head and foot of the bed finger stringed instruments. Fans are waved by a concealed motor, which keeps them going the whole night long.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
January 6th.

- 1810—James Richard Dacres died of a fall from his horse. He was vice-admiral of the red and father of the Captain Dacres captured by Hull.
- 1814—The British government offered to treat for peace, and commissioners of peace on the part of the United States were appointed.
- 1817—General Thomas died at Millidgeville, Ga.
- 1823—The siege of Missolonghi raised.
- 1826—The report on incomes in the First District of Illinois showed that Potter Palmer, John V. Farwell and Peter Schuetler were the only persons in Chicago whose annual income exceeded \$100,000.
- 1868—Congress met. The President was, by a vote of seventy-nine to twenty, elected in the House, censured for removing General Sheridan. The resolution of thanks to General Grant for his letters to the President relative to the removal of Secretary Stanton, and General Sheridan's report of affairs in Texas, passed by eighty-two yeas to twenty-three nays. A bill passed constituting eight hours a day's work for government employees.
- 1872—Colonel James Fisk, Jr., shot in the Grand Central Hotel, New York, by Edward S. Stokes, and died two days later, aged thirty-seven.
- 1885—Grover Cleveland, President-elect, resigned as Governor of New York.
- 1895—Toronto, Ont., swept by a \$1,000,000 fire.
- 1905—Representative Maynard, of Virginia, in a bill introduced in the House of Representatives, proposed to increase the salary of the President to \$75,000 a year, the Vice-President to \$15,000, and to give the President, after his retirement from office, an annual salary of \$25,000 for life.
- 1905—Russia-Japanese War; only 5,451 Russian soldiers were able to march out of Port Arthur, all others being sick or wounded, or dead. The victors accept parole. Stoessel and Nogai had cordial interview.

Skin Preserver.

Blanks' Velveteen Lotion

It is one of the nicest toilet preparations that you ever got anywhere. It is a great favorite among the ladies. It acts like a charm upon the skin—very cooling, softening and healing in effect.

It softens and smooths rough skin, heals chapped surfaces, removes dry, harsh spots, aids in restoring the color to faded complexions, and is very beneficial in clearing the skin of pimples, blackheads and mudheads.

We ask you to give this preparation a trial, confidently believing that you will be as other ladies are who have used it—a great admirer and constant user of it. You will find it a most pleasant addition to your list of toilet requisites.

Price 15 and 25 Cents a Bottle

Prepared and Sold by
BLANKS
The Prescription Druggist,
and
L. Wagner Drug Co.
The Toilet and Perfumery Druggist.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CHURCHES

Japanese Missionary at St. Mark's.
Annual Church Meetings.

WEEK OF PRAYER OBSERVED

Mr. Friend to Undenominational Christians—Special Meetings at West View.

Rev. G. W. McDaniel, pastor of First Baptist Church, will fill his pulpit at 11 A. M. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock the annual meeting of the church will be held at which time the reports of the several societies of the church will be read. There will be no service in the evening.

Pastor William L. Ball will preach in the West View Baptist Church, Grove Avenue and Meadow Street, at 11 A. M. The annual business meeting of the church will be held at 3 P. M. No service at 8 P. M. There will be special evangelistic meetings each day during the week. Song and prayer service at 7:30 P. M. preaching at 8 P. M., and an afternoon service for personal work. Mr. N. B. Crabtree, assistant secretary of the Railroad Y. M. C. A., will lead the singing.

At Park Place Methodist Church, the pastor, Rev. L. B. Betty, will preach morning and evening. At 11 A. M. his subject will be: "Reasonable Resolutions." At 8 P. M. he will preach on "Living in View of the Judgment."

Rev. Henry Pearce Atkins will preach morning and night to-morrow in West End Christian Church on Morris Street, between Main and Floyd Avenue. In the morning the "annual roll call and reports of all departments of church work will be submitted." The subject at night will be "The Decay of Reverence."

"1906, the Best Year of the World's History," will be the subject of the sermon Sunday night by Dr. Young at Centenary Church. In the morning, "The Cross in the Life, the Evidence of Salvation."

At Laurel Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. J. A. Thomas, pastor, will preach at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. His morning subject will be "Despondency." Subject at night: "The Millennium." (By request).

Rev. W. A. Cooper will preach at both services Sunday at St. James Methodist Church, Twenty-ninth and Marshall Streets. Morning subject, "The Quest of the Holy Grail." Afterward the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered. His evening subject will be "The Destructive Practices of Methodism."

Rev. Dr. M. Ashby Jones, pastor of Leigh Street Baptist Church, will preach to-morrow morning on "The Sacredness of Time." In the evening his theme will be: "The Fruits of Friendship."

To-morrow will be Pastor Robertson's second anniversary at Randolph Street Baptist Church. The pastor will speak at both services. Subject at night will be "The Lord's Benefits." The Willing Helpers will meet at 3:30 in the afternoon.

At the Pine Street Baptist Church Rev. J. B. Hutson, the pastor, will preach at 11 A. M. and Rev. J. E. Hutson, the evangelist, will preach at 8 P. M.

Mr. Charles N. Friend will preach to-morrow morning at the Marshall Hall, No. 256 East Broad Street, to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Subject: "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done on Earth as in Heaven."

The Rev. C. F. Sweet, professor in Trinity Divinity School, Tokio, Japan, will preach in St. Mark's Church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

At the Immanuel Baptist Church the pastor, Rev. E. W. Stone, will speak both morning and evening. The subject of the morning discourse will be "Reverencing the Time," and of the evening: "A New Year's Motto."

The congregation of the First Unitarian Church will hold its regular services Sunday morning in Monroe Hall at 11 o'clock. The Sunday school will meet at 10 o'clock.

Dr. C. S. Gardner will preach both morning and evening at the Grace Street Baptist Church. "The Week of Prayer" will be observed at this church, and Dr. Gardner will preach every evening during the week, services beginning at 8 o'clock.

At First Church of Christ, Scientist, the subject of the lesson-sermon to-morrow morning will be "The Kingdom of God is within you." Show Me How To Go," will be sung to the new setting.

Dr. W. R. L. Smith will preach in the morning at the Second Baptist Church. The annual meeting of the church in the afternoon. No service at night.

To-day is the feast of the Epiphany, and all the Episcopal churches in the city will hold services. The services at Monumental will begin at 11 o'clock.

"Why Should We Serve and Honor All Men?" will be the theme of Dr. J. B. Hawthorne's New Year's sermon to-morrow morning at Grove Avenue Baptist Church. In this discourse he will show the rational basis for this divine requirement is the essential dignity and grandeur of human nature.

At 8 P. M. Rev. Mr. Riddell, one of the most magnetic speakers and successful pastors in Virginia, will preach. An excellent programme of music will be rendered at each of these services.

At Grace Street Presbyterian Church, the pastor, Dr. Witherspoon, will occupy the pulpit, and preach in the morning. There will be no night service on account of the joint communion service of all the Presbyterian churches in the city at the First Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Ryland Knight will fill his pulpit at the Calvary Baptist Church to-morrow at both services.

Mr. Riddell III.
Mr. John M. Riddell, an old and highly respected citizen, is ill at his home, No. 1919 Floyd Avenue.

Mr. Riddell is over eighty-six years of age and was a merchant in this city prior to the war.

Mr. Riddell is the father of Mr. T. J. Riddell, a well known Richmond physician.

To Be Frank
you have really never eaten a true soda cracker until you have eaten

Unedea Biscuit
The only soda cracker which is all good and always good, protected from strange hands by a dust tight, moisture proof package.

5¢

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

Pleasant Fields of Holy Writ.
Save for my daily range
Among the pleasure fields of Holy Writ,
I might despair.—Tennyson.

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THE REV. DAVIS W. CLARK, D. D., Editor.

Sunday-School Lesson For January 7th.

First Quarter. Lesson 1. Luke 2: 1-20.

The Shepherds Find Jesus.
Eleazar, queen of England, went to Carnarvon Castle, A. D. 1284, in order that her royal son might be born on Welsh soil, and her subjects of that realm passed by having the heir to the British throne always afterward called the Prince of Wales. In the same way the people of the world are waiting for the Son of Man, who will come to earth, probably without conscious purpose, but none the less certainly that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. The immediate cause of the journey was the enrollment ordered by Augustus Caesar, who seemed to have had a passion for census-taking. As a concession to Jewish prejudice, those to be enrolled were allowed to report at their ancestral villages. This brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. But it brought others also, on the same errand, and in such numbers as to tax all places of entertainment; so that the weary travelers were obliged to seek out a place of their own, where they could find a place to rest. The shepherds, who were much in the solemn stillness of the night, and in the silence of the heavenly world, were a tradition that the first announcement of the birth of the Messiah was to be made there. It is gathered, therefore, for the shepherds of the sacred flock which furnished sacrifices for the temple. The case is not much altered if the tradition should prove a bit of fancy, and the shepherds turn out just common rude rustics. Whoever they were, they were in communion with heaven at the moment when the apparition occurred. The prepared message comes to the shepherds in the form of a vision. A tall, white angel standing in the flaming fire of the shekinah was the messenger. "Fear not," he said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a son, the first-born of Mary. This is the sign of the Lord's anointing. 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